

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated February 28, 2007.

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 9-17 and 22-26 remained pending in the application. As stated in the office action summary, claims 9-15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 16 stands objected to and would be allowable if amended to include the base claim. Claims 18-21 were previously withdrawn and, as stated in the office action, were not rejoined as requested as the method could be used with a shoring device. Claims 22-26 are allowed.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, and asserts that the rejected claims are definite and could not be used in the application identified.

Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of the present application to issuance of a patent and to more particularly point out selected aspects of the claims, applicant has cancelled claims 9-21. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any previously cancelled claims in their original forms at a later time.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims. Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims.

If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

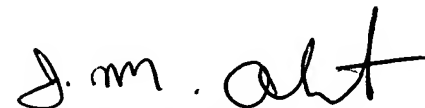
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